

Message Text

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15

ACTION DLOS-04

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NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 FEA-01 ACDA-10

AGR-10 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIEP-02 OFA-01

COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-04 ERDA-07 FMC-02 TRSE-00

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 IO-11 JUSE-00 L-03 NSC-05 NSF-02

OES-05 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAL-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1214

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

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TAGS: PLOS, CA

SUBJECT: LAW OF THE SEA MEETING IN HALIFAX

1. TWO-DAY COLLOQUIUM IS TAKING PLACE IN HALIFAX ON JANUARY 22-23, 1976 ON LAW OF THE SEA MATTERS UNDER THE SPONSORSHIP OF THE TRILATERAL COMMISSION, THE PRIVATE NORTH AMERICAN-EUROPEAN-JAPANESE ADVISORY BODY SET UP TO CONSIDER LAW OF THE SEA PROBLEMS. ONE OF PRINCIPAL PARTICIPANTS IN THE COLLOQUIUM HAS BEEN J ALLAN BEESLEY, CANADIAN AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRIA, WHO IS ALSO HEAD OF CANADA'S DELEGATION TO THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE.

2. DURING COURSE OF MEETING, AMBASSADOR BEESLEY HAS UNCLASSIFIED

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SPOKEN FREELY TO THE LOCAL MEDIA. HE HAS SAID THAT

CANADA WOULD SUPPORT, WITH CERTAIN RESERVATIONS, SEPARATION OF FISHERIES DISCUSSIONS FROM THE MAIN-STREAM OF LAW OF THE SEA NEGOTIATIONS. HE SAID IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES WOULD ATTEMPT TO SEPARATE THE FISHERIES DISCUSSIONS WHEN THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE RECONVENES IN NEW YORK ON MARCH 15. AMBASSADOR BEESLEY SAID THERE WERE DANGERS INHERENT IN SEPARATE DISCUSSIONS SINCE THE FISHERIES ISSUE IS SO CLEARLY RELATED TO OTHER LAW OF THE SEA REQUIREMENTS. A SEPARATE FISHERIES AGREEMENT WOULD BE VIRTUALLY USELESS IF FISH STOCKS WERE DESTROYED BECAUSE OF FAILURE TO GET WORLD AGREEMENT ON MARINE POLLUTION. HE SAID CANADA'S POSITION WOULD BE TO SUPPORT THE MOVE ONLY IF BACKED BY A MAJORITY OF THE PARTICIPANTS. HE THINKS THIS UNLIKELY.

3. AMBASSADOR BEESLEY SAID HE DID NOT THINK FINAL AGREEMENT WILL BE REACHED ON THE PROPOSED 200 MILE COASTAL STATE MANAGEMENT RIGHTS AT THE MARCH SESSION. HE THOUGHT ANOTHER FOLLOW-UP SESSION WOULD BE NEEDED LATER IN THE YEAR. HOWEVER, 1976 IS A "YEAR OF DECISION" FOR THE WORLD SEANEGOTIATORS AS PRESSURE FOR SETTLEMENT IS MOUNTING BECAUSE OF GROWING IMPATIENCE IN SOME COUNTRIES FOR THE 200 .MILE ZONE. CANADA HAS NOT RULED OUT UNILATERAL ACTION BUT WOULD ONLY TAKE IT AS A LAST RESORT. UNILATERAL ACTION BY CANADA WOULD POSE A SERIOUS ENFORCEMENT PROBLEM.

4. IF THE UNITED STATES TAKES UNILATERAL ACTION AMBASSADOR BEESLEY THOUGHT CANADA WOULD BE AFFECTED WITH REGARD TO CANADA'S FISHERIES AND IN CONNECTION WITH HOW THE BOUNDARY LINES WERE DRAWN.

5. WHILE FAVORING THE MULTILATERAL APPROACH, CANADA HAS NONETHELESS PROCEEDED WITH BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS, ACCORDING TO BEESLEY, AND HAS REACHED AN AGREEMENT WITH NORWAY AND A TENTATIVE AGREEMENT WITH POLAND GUARANTING THE LATTER ACCESS TO FISHERIES OFF CANADA'S EAST AND WEST COASTS. THREE OR FOUR OTHER PROPOSED AGREEMENTS ARE WELL INTO THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS. AMBASSADOR UNCLASSIFIED

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BEESLEY EXPRESSED OPTIMISM ABOUT THE OUTCOME OF THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE EVEN THOUGH HE DID NOT THINK IT COULD COMPLETE ITS WORK IN THE MARCH SESSION.

6. ALSO PRESENT AT THE CONFERENCE WAS AMBASSADOR CHRISTOPHER PINTO, SRI LANKA'S AMBASSADOR TO GERMANY. HE TOLD THE CONFERENCE THAT WITHIN THE NEXT MONTH SRI LANKA WILL HAVE PASSED LEGISLATION ENABLING HIS

GOVERNMENT TO DECLARE UNILATERALLY A 200 .MILE COASTAL
ECONOMIC ZONE. AT THE MOMENT SRI LANKA IS CONDUCTING
NEGOTIATIONS WITH INDIA TO ARRIVE AT BOUNDARY
ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. SRI LANKA'S
LEGISLATION WILL ALLOW THE REPUBLIC'S PRESIDENT TO
DECLARE ECONOMIC ZONES AT ANY TIME. THE UNILATERAL
ACTION WILL COVER FISHERIES, MINERAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. THE LEGISLATION WILL BE
PUT INTO EFFECT AS SOON AS IT APPEAR THAT THERE WILL NOT
BE A MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT.
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